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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/998,892	12/03/2001	Jeffrey J. Rosnow	1414/67202	4171
22242	7590	12/21/2004	EXAMINER	
FITCH EVEN TABIN AND FLANNERY 120 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET SUITE 1600 CHICAGO, IL 60603-3406			LU, KUEN S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2167	

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/998,892

Applicant(s)

ROSNOW ET AL.

Examiner

Kuen S Lu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2004 and 17 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-34 and 36-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-34 and 36-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION***R sponse to Am ndm nt***

1. The Applicants' Amendments filed on 6/24/2004 and 8/17/2004 is noted and considered. The Amendment to claims is being addressed in the following "***Claim Rejections***" and "***Response to Arguments***" Sections.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 29 is objected to because of the following informalities: The subject matter "plant approval request" in the claim is not described in the application disclosure and treated as a typo. In the Office Action, the Examiner interprets it as "plan approval request". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-5, 7-10, 40, 42 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goerz, JR et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0065671, hereafter "Goerz"), and further in view of Gennaro et al. (U.S. Patent 5,742,768, hereafter "Gennaro").

As per claims 1, Goerz teaches the following:

"a computer coupled for inter-communication to a plurality of stations from which respective users each have a browser-based interface with the computer" (See Fig. 1,

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elements 12, 14, 15's, 16's, 18A and 20A, and Page 1, [0006] wherein Goerz's browser-based users/customers are inter-connected and each user/customer has own interface is equivalent to Applicant's a computer coupled for inter-communication to a plurality of stations from which respective users each have a browser-based interface with the computer);

"store information in a database on the proposed new project" (See Fig. 14 and Page 8, [0085] wherein Goerz' project information is stored in data vault is equivalent to Applicant's store information in a database on the proposed new project);

"search for information on previous proposed projects stored in a database based on an inputted search request by a user" (See Page 10, [0106] wherein Goerz' project development workspace may be updated by users connection and search is equivalent to Applicant's search for information on previous proposed projects stored in a database based on an inputted search request by a user);

"evaluate the proposed new project using criteria including the search results for information on previously proposed projects to generate an evaluation document" (See Figs. 4 and 19C, and Page 5, [0063] and Page 8, [0085] wherein Goerz' search the data vault and knowledge base, direct to the project life cycle's phases and further display pages of information on the screen is equivalent to Applicant's evaluate the proposed new project using criteria including the search results for information on previously proposed projects to generate an evaluation document); and

"receive idea information describing a proposed new project" (See Figs. 4 and 19C and Page 5, [0063] wherein Goerz' search knowledge base and direct to the project life

cycle's phases is equivalent to Applicant's receive idea information describing a proposed new project).

Goerz does not specifically teach "a graphical user interface providing contextual help for users displayed as pop-up or scroll in thumbnail windows appearing on the user's display screen when a user moves a cursor arrow over and rests it on a button or reading in the screen".

However, Gennaro teaches "a graphical user interface providing contextual help for users displayed as pop-up or scroll in thumbnail windows appearing on the user's display screen when a user moves a cursor arrow over and rests it on a button or reading in the screen" (See Fig. 2B, elements 42-48, Fig. 4, elements 64-66 and col. 4, lines 30-42 wherein Gennaro's text displayed when pointer is moved over the spot is equivalent to Applicant's a graphical user interface providing contextual help for users displayed as pop-up or scroll in thumbnail windows appearing on the user's display screen when a user moves a cursor arrow over and rests it on a button or reading in the screen).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine Gennaro's teaching with Goerz reference by applying the mouse-over display feature to Goerz' project development because both references are devoted to internet application and the Gennaro reference heavily involves web resource search and content display. The combined reference would have helped Goerz system to reach its goal for a more efficient, cost effective, faster and convenient project development because of utilizing a web-based mouse-over

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feature which would have helped project developers more efficiently surfing and retrieving web resources upon the project development tremendously depends.

As per claim 2, Goerz teaches "information is stored in an electronic file form that is key-word searchable and retrievable" (See Figs. 4, 10-11 and 14, and Page 3, [0043] wherein Goerz' user, searching and connection is secured by password for key-word searchable information and data vault contains all reports is equivalent to Applicant's information is stored in an electronic file form that is key-word searchable and retrievable).

As per claim 3, Goerz teaches "information is stored in an electronic file form under categories of business that are key-word searchable and retrievable" (See Figs. 4 and 14 wherein Goerz' data vault stores all reports and key-word search is performed on knowledge database is equivalent to Applicant's information is stored in an electronic file form under categories of business that are key-word searchable and retrievable).

As per claim 4, Goerz teaches "controlling access of a given user to system resources based on the authenticating data supplied by the user when logging on" (See Figs 10-11 wherein Goerz' users utilized registration and password make connection to project development system is equivalent to Applicant's controlling access of a given user to system resources based on the authenticating data supplied by the user when logging on).

As per claim 5, Goerz teaches “comprising cookie means for developing a user profile of users” (See Page 7, [0074] wherein Goerz’ setting cookie, filling questionnaire and registering credit card information is equivalent to Applicant’s developing a user profile of users).

As per claim 7, Goerz teaches “comprising means for built-in e-mail functionality capability using internet e-mail in which e-mail documents can be separately sent or received by a user” (See Page 5, [0060] wherein Goerz’ using e-mail as an attribute of URL users is equivalent to Applicant’s built-in e-mail functionality capability using internet e-mail in which e-mail documents can be separately sent or received by a user).

As per claim 8, the combined Gennaro-Goerz reference teaches “means for permitting a user to select a name(s) of desired team member recipients of e-mail in a window without having to scroll out of a screen to send the e-mail” (See Goerz: Page 9, [0093] where users stay informed and interacted by on-line electronic conference and real-time e-mail update, and Gennaro: See Fig. 2B, elements 42-48, Fig. 4, elements 64-66 and col. 4, lines 30-42 where text displayed when pointer is moved over the spot is equivalent to Applicant’s permitting a user to select a name(s) of desired team member recipients of e-mail in a window without having to scroll out of a screen to send the e-mail).

As per claim 9, Goerz teaches "comprising means for displaying project report as printable browser-based documents" (See Fig. 18F wherein Goerz' project status page is displayed on browser-based screen which is available for screen print is equivalent to Applicant's comprising means for displaying project report as printable browser-based documents).

As per claim 10, Goerz teaches "comprising means displaying customized display screens for managerial review providing overview information for projects underway on the system" (See Fig. 18F and, Page 4, [0054] and Page 5, [0058] wherein Goerz' web-based user manages the customized project development and views the project pages of a customized project is equivalent to Applicant's comprising means displaying customized display screens for managerial review providing overview information for projects underway on the system).

As per claim 40, Goerz teaches the following:
"planning a plurality of project development phases for said project development, wherein said project development phases are capable of being displayed on display units of a plurality of browser-based clients of a computer system, and said clients each comprising a browser operable to communicate with a server which can retrieve stored information on previously submitted projects from computer database and pass the retrieved information to the display unit of the client from which the request was made" (See Fig. 18A, elements 48A-48G, Pages 9, [0095] and Page 10, [0110] where seven phases for project development is displayed and described on user's web browser; at

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Fig. 18J and Page 9, [0095], where users are allowed to engage project management from phase to phase; and at Page 10, [0106]-[0108] where a project workspace may be made public for internet users to access is equivalent to Applicant's retrieving stored project information from an internet database);

"providing, for each of said project development phases, a set of task requirements necessary to complete each respective project development phase" (See Fig. 18F and Page 1, [0009] where resource for accomplishing tasks for each phase of a project is addressed and a developers transition in a project development phase, for example definitive planning, from feasibility studies to test conclusions with market negotiations, conceptual engineering, ... and constructors, etc is equivalent to Applicant's providing, for each of said project development phases, a set of task requirements necessary to complete each respective project development phase);

"providing for each task requirement a means for determining the completion status of that requirement" (See Page 9, [0095] where project management tools may be provided for monitoring and controlling project transactions, budgets and schedules for supporting the task requirements in a project development phase transition);

"providing means for indicating the completion of each task requirement on the display unit" (See Fig. 18F, Page 5, [0058], [0063] and Page 9, [0095] wherein the combining teachings of Goerz' management tools for monitoring the project, user's management the process of completing a project, the project is conducted in phases and completing the tasks requirement in each phase is equivalent to Applicant's indicating the completion of each task requirement on the display unit);

“providing means for electronically messaging persons responsible for said tasks” (See Page 9, [0093] users stay informed by email is equivalent to Applicant’s providing means for electronically messaging persons responsible for said tasks); and

“providing gate means after each development phase which is in an open or closed state insofar as permitting the project to progress through the respective gate means, wherein each gate means is opened only when all the requirements for the given project development phase have been completed” (See Fig. 18F and Page 1, [0009] where resource for accomplishing tasks for each phase of a project is addressed and a developers transition in a project development phase, for example definitive planning, from feasibility studies to test conclusions with market negotiations, conceptual engineering, ... and constructors, etc and further at Fig. 18L wherein Goerz’ owners take over from the contractors, the operation and maintenance of the project begins is equivalent to beginning a new phase after closing a phase).

Goerz does not specifically teach “a graphical user interface providing contextual help for users displayed as pop-up or scroll in thumbnail windows appearing on the user’s display screen when a user moves a cursor arrow over and rests it on a button or reading in the screen”.

However, Gennaro teaches “a graphical user interface providing contextual help for users displayed as pop-up or scroll in thumbnail windows appearing on the user’s display screen when a user moves a cursor arrow over and rests it on a button or reading in the screen” (See Fig. 2B, elements 42-48, Fig. 4, elements 64-66 and col. 4, lines 30-42 wherein Gennaro’s text displayed when pointer is moved over the spot is equivalent to Applicant’s a graphical user interface providing contextual help for users

displayed as pop-up or scroll in thumbnail windows appearing on the user's display screen when a user moves a cursor arrow over and rests it on a button or reading in the screen).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine Gennaro's teaching with Goerz reference by applying the mouse-over display feature to Goerz' project development because both references are devoted to internet application and the Gennaro reference heavily involves web resource search and content display. The combined reference would have helped Goerz' system to reach its goal for a more efficient, cost effective, faster and convenient project development because of utilizing a web-based mouse-over feature which would have helped project developers more efficiently surfing and retrieving web resources upon the project development tremendously depends.

As per claim 42, Goerz further teaches "means for changing the task requirements during project development" (See Page 1, [0009] where resource for accomplishing tasks for each phase of a project is addressed and Page 1, [0008] wherein users have the option for selecting resources early or later, including the best available is equivalent to Applicant's changing the task requirements during project development).

As per claims 45, Goerz teaches the following:

"a computer coupled for inter-communication to a plurality of stations from which respective users each have a browser-based interface with the computer" (See Fig. 1, elements 12, 14, 15's, 16's, 18A and 20A, and Page 1, [0006] wherein Goerz's browser-

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based users/customers are inter-connected and each user/customer has own interface is equivalent to Applicant's a computer coupled for inter-communication to a plurality of stations from which respective users each have a browser-based interface with the computer);

"store information in a database on the proposed new project" (See Fig. 14 and Page 8, [0085] wherein Goerz' project information is stored in data vault is equivalent to Applicant's store information in a database on the proposed new project);

"search for information on previous proposed projects stored in a database based on an inputted search request by a user" (See Page 10, [0106] wherein Goerz' project development workspace may be updated by users connection and search is equivalent to Applicant's search for information on previous proposed projects stored in a database based on an inputted search request by a user);

"evaluate the proposed new project using criteria including the search results for information on previously proposed projects to generate an evaluation document" (See Figs. 4 and 19C, and Page 5, [0063] and Page 8, [0085] wherein Goerz' search the data vault and knowledge base, direct to the project life cycle's phases and further display pages of information on the screen is equivalent to Applicant's evaluate the proposed new project using criteria including the search results for information on previously proposed projects to generate an evaluation document); and

"receive idea information describing a proposed new project" (See Figs. 4 and 19C and Page 5, [0063] wherein Goerz' search knowledge base and direct to the project life cycle's phases is equivalent to Applicant's receive idea information describing a proposed new project).

Goerz does not specifically teach "permitting a user to select one or names of desired team members for recipients of e-mail in a window by selectively checking boxes next to displayed names of the team members without having to scroll out of a screen to send the e-mail", although Goerz teaches using e-mail to keep project development team members informed at Page 9, [0093].

However, Gennaro teaches displaying or popping up contextual pop-up in thumbnail windows appearing on the user's display screen when a user moves a cursor arrow over and rests it on a button or reading in the screen (See Fig. 2B, elements 42-48, Fig. 4, elements 64-66 and col. 4, lines 30-42 wherein Gennaro's text displayed when pointer is moved over the spot is equivalent to Applicant's a graphical user interface providing contextual help for users displayed as pop-up or scroll in thumbnail windows appearing on the user's display screen when a user moves a cursor arrow over and rests it on a button or reading in the screen).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine Gennaro's teaching with Goerz reference by applying the mouse-over display feature as described to Goerz' project development for automatically popping up e-mail distribution list for user to select without scrolling out of the screen, because both references are devoted to internet application and the Gennaro reference heavily involves web resource search and content display. The combined reference would have helped Goerz' system to reach its goal for a more efficient, cost effective, faster and convenient project development because of utilizing a web-based mouse-over feature which would have helped project developers more

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efficiently surfing and retrieving web resources upon the project development tremendously depends.

5. Claims 11-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Page et al. (U.S. Patent 6,212,549, hereafter "Page") in view of Sandoval et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0004766, hereafter "Sandoval"), and further in view of Chappel et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0101089, hereafter "Chappel") and Gennaro et al. (U.S. Patent 5,742,768, hereafter "Gennaro").

As per claim 11, Page teaches the following:

"a computer coupled for inter-communication to a plurality of stations from which respective users each have a browser-based interface with the computer" at Fig. 3, elements 304-310 where server computer (304) is connected to a network (310) and col. 7, lines 37-48 by describing the server and client computers connected on the network, and at Fig. 2, element 236 and col. 6, line 64 – col. 7, line 7 by showing a custom viewing panel with a presentation format the most appropriate for the illustration of collaborative project management and communication software;

"store information in a database on the proposed new project" at col. 6, lines 12-14 by describing a project trackpoint database to store the trackpoints pertaining to a participating project;

"search for information on previous proposed projects stored in a database based on an inputted search request by a user" at Fig. 2, e232-236 and col. 6, lines 47-50 by

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searching the trackpoint database for trackpoints of a pertaining project by specifying a set of search criteria;

“evaluate the proposed new project using criteria including the search results for information on previously proposed projects to generate an evaluation document” at col. 6, lines 59-63 by describing a notification tool to notify project participants when a notification criteria met and at col. 6, lines 64 – col. 7, line 7 by reviewing the search result on the viewing panel where pre-selected data is displayed;

“receive information on projected project timelines for tasks required to reach market introduction” at Fig. 2, element 236 and col. 7, lines 4-7 by presenting projected timeline information of the project on the briefing book to the user; and

“receive information on task assignments to personnel and associated timelines for completing them” at col. 11, lines 59-64 by using trackpoints to organize participants of the project for exchanging information on assignments while keeping a history of project attribute values with time at col. 11, lines 7-11.

Page does not specifically teach project idea managing or “receive idea information describing a proposed new project”.

However, Sandoval teaches project idea management at the Abstract and “receive idea information describing a proposed new project” at Figs. 2a-2c and Page 4, [0070] where the idea for a project is submitted in worksheet.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine Sandoval's teaching with Page reference by including the receiving of project idea in the project trackpoints management because by doing so all phases of a project development, from an idea conceived to the product

introduction to the market would have been best practiced by a single software tool and a unique database.

Sandoval further teaches the following:

“receive technical feasibility information and process the technical feasibility information to generate a technical feasibility document” at Page 1, [0013], lines 9-12 by analyzing the project best practice idea to confirm the best practice is a best practice and assessing the feasibility of the best practice and at Page 2, [0016]; lines 6-12 by documenting the project best practice;

“generate a product proposal plan upon receiving at least portion of the idea evaluation information, technical feasibility information, risk assessment information, and projected timelines for the tasks required to reach market introduction information” at Figs. 6-7, and Page 6, [0107] and Page 7, [0135]-[139] where project plan is being reviewed and pending for implementation and institutionalization of the best practice of the project;

“receive information on the acceptance or non-acceptance of the product proposal plan” at Page 8, [0149], lines 12-21 where acceptance practice is archived and institutionalized while obsolete is for the non-acceptance for best practice of the project development;

“business planning software operational when executed by the processor to direct the processor to receive business planning information and process the business planning information to generate a business proposition and a capital allocation request, and to receive and process information on the acceptance or non-acceptance of the business proposition and the capital allocation request” at Page 6, [0107] by implementing the best practice of a project at phase 4 where sponsor’s agreement to provide the required

support and resources is requested and at Page 6, [0109], lines 1-2 where the project steering team agrees with the practice and approves to proceed; and "project launching software operational when executed by the processor to direct the processor to receive overall finalized product information and process the finalized product information, and to receive and process information on the acceptance or non-acceptance of the product launch" at Page 4, [0108]-[0109] the project steering team is requested with the agreement on identifying the programs to implement the practice and conduct a pilot for the best practice.

Concerning risk assessment information, the combined Sandoval-Page reference teaches processing feasibility information as described.

The combined Sandoval-Page reference does not specifically teach "receive risk assessment information and process the risk assessment information to generate a risk assessment document".

However, Chappel teaches quantitatively assessing risk on a project associated with a change proposal and providing an objective risk assessment at Page 1, [0009].

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine teachings of Chappel and Sandoval with Page reference by conducting risk assessments through the progress of a project because by doing so the risk associating with changes of the project would have been timely assessed and proposal changes would have been promptly evaluated in order to guarantee a smooth execution of the project from phase to phase.

The above combined teachings of Chappel, Sandoval and Page references does not specifically teach "a graphical user interface providing contextual help for users

displayed as pop-up or scroll in thumbnail windows appearing on the user's display screen when a user moves a cursor arrow over and rests it on a button or reading in the screen".

However, Gennaro teaches "a graphical user interface providing contextual help for users displayed as pop-up or scroll in thumbnail windows appearing on the user's display screen when a user moves a cursor arrow over and rests it on a button or reading in the screen" (See Fig. 2B, elements 42-48, Fig. 4, elements 64-66 and col. 4, lines 30-42 wherein Gennaro's text displayed when pointer is moved over the spot is equivalent to Applicant's a graphical user interface providing contextual help for users displayed as pop-up or scroll in thumbnail windows appearing on the user's display screen when a user moves a cursor arrow over and rests it on a button or reading in the screen).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to further combine Gennaro's teaching with references of Chappel, Sandoval and Page by applying the "mouse-over" display feature to Sandoval's project development because the references are devoted to project development application in the internet environment, and the Gennaro reference heavily teaches web resource search and content display. The combined reference would have helped Sandoval and Page's systems to reach its goal for a more efficient, cost effective, faster and convenient project development because of utilizing a web-based mouse-over feature which would have helped project developers more efficiently surfing and retrieving web resources upon the project development tremendously depends.

As per claims and 12, Sandoval further teaches “the project idea managing software is operational to direct the processor to further perform, between the tasks of receiving the technical feasibility and risk assessment information, a task of receiving and processing consumer feedback information obtained via surveying potential customers on the concept of the proposed project” at Page 1, [0005] by surveying and benchmarking to identify the best practice processes among all existing processes or alternatives and at Page 3, [0033] by placing the project best practice on the web for being assessed, conducting periodic reviews and reconciling the differences between the business group deployment metrics.

As per claim 13, Sandoval further teaches “managing software is operational to direct the processor to further perform, between the tasks of receiving the technical feasibility and risk assessment information, a task of receiving and processing input forecast of potential volume of said new project” at Page 1, [0005] by surveying and benchmarking to identify the best practice processes among all existing processes or alternatives.

As per claim 14, Sandoval further teaches “business planning software is operational to direct the processor to further perform a task of receiving and processing consumer testing information on product prototypes associated with the new project” at Page 7, [0123]-[0133] by conducting a pilot to test the best practice and using the feedback from the pilot, and making revisions to the project best practice.

As per claim 15, Sandoval further teaches “the project launching software is operational to direct the processor to further perform a task of receiving and processing customer authorization information for product market introduction” at Page 7, [0136]-[0137] when the pilot is completed and the project practice is institutionalized to become a way of doing business at the target company, including the product introduction to the market.

As per claim 16, Sandoval further teaches “project launching software is operational to direct the processor to further perform tasks of receiving and processing initial production plant information, and to receive and process information on the acceptance or non-acceptance of the initial production plant information” at Page 4, [0108]-[0109] the project steering team is requested with the agreement on identifying the programs to implement the practice and conduct a pilot for the best practice.

As per claim 17, Sandova further teaches “the project launching software is operational to direct the processor to further perform tasks of receiving and processing resource release information to generate a resource release document, and to receive and process information on the acceptance or non-acceptance of the resource release” at Page 1, [0014] by at least one executive sponsor to approve and commit for the at least one executive sponsor processes the executive authority to exercise organization resources necessary to develop and implement the best practice idea.

As per claim 18, Page teaches "at least one of the work stations comprises a desktop computer, a laptop computer, a computer terminal, or an Internet appliance" at Fig. 3, where elements 306-308 are client computers.

As per claim 19, Page further teaches "a database including memory storing identification, task assignment, scheduling and outcome information on previously proposed projects" at Fig. 2, where element 202 is the project trackpoint database and at col. 15, lines 9-13 where computer readable medium includes cdrom, disk or the like to store various project information, and "newly proposed projects, wherein said database is associated with a web server, and the browser-enabled stations being operable to communicate a request to the server to access said project information, and the server being operable, upon receipt of the request, to retrieve and pass the requested information to station to be displayed by the browser" at col. 7, lines 56-64 where internet access is provided with web-server and browser-enabled station for the briefing book page.

As per claim 20, Page teaches "browser software residing on the stations, and said computer including a web server through which users enter a web home page or portal for the system upon sending a system URL via HTTP to the web server" at col. 7, lines 56-64 where internet access is provided for accessing URL via HTTP to the web server.

As per claim 21, Sandoval further teaches "comprising task control software operational to permit an administrator of the project to make additions, changes or

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deletions in the task assignments during implementation of a project on the system” at Page 3, [0032] by process owner team to administer, facilitate and track the development and implementation of the project best practices according to the best practice process.

As per claim 22, Sandoval further teaches “comprising task control software operational to permit an administrator of the project to make changes in timelines associated with task assignments during implementation of a project on the system” at Page 5, [0084] by making changes or modifications to the project worksheets.

As per claim 23, Page teaches “comprising task control software operational to permit an administrator of the project to select from among optional task assignments during the receiving of the information on task assignments” at col. 11, lines 59-64 by flexibly organizing project participants to exchange information and/or work collaborative on tasks or subtasks.

As per claim 24, Sandoval further teaches “task control software operational to permit an administrator of the project to add task assignments after the receiving of the information on task assignments and during implementation of a project on the system” at Page 6, [0106] by obtaining necessary approval and support to proceed with the development of project.

As per claim 25, Sandoval further teaches “document storing and retrieval software for maintaining documents generated during project development which are applicable to given tasks” at Page 1, [0016] by utilizing the project worksheets for the identification, selection, development and deployment of the project best practice.

As per claim 26 Sandoval further teaches “comprising document storing and retrieval software for maintaining document templates applicable to tasks” at at Page 1, [0016] by utilizing the project worksheets for the identification, selection, development and deployment of the project best practice.

As per claim 27, Page teaches “comprising project information generating software for displaying task information and timelines on a browser-enabled user station for a selected project” at Fig. 6 and col. 7, lines 56-64 where task status and timeline of the project best practice is displayed on worksheet and where internet access is provided.

As per claim, 28, Page teaches “comprising project information generating software for displaying task information and timelines on a browser-enabled user station for a selected project, further including electronic mail software providing an interface with electronic mail associated with the selected project” at Fig. 6 and col. 7, lines 56-64 where task status and timeline of the project best practice is displayed on worksheet and where internet access is provided for accessing web, including web email.

6. Claims 29-34 and 36-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Page et al. (U.S. Patent 6,212,549, hereafter "Page") in view of Sandoval et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0004766, hereafter "Sandoval"), and further in view of Chappel et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0101089, hereafter "Chappel") and Underwood (U.S. Patent 6,718,535).

As per claim 29, Page teaches the following:

"a computer coupled for inter-communication to a plurality of stations from which respective users each have a browser-based interface with the computer" at Fig. 3, elements 304-310 where server computer (304) is connected to a network (310) and col. 7, lines 37-48 by describing the server and client computers connected on the network, and at Fig. 2, element 236 and col. 6, line 64 – col. 7, line 7 by showing a custom viewing panel with a presentation format the most appropriate for the illustration of collaborative project management and communication software;

"storing information in a database on the proposed new project" at col. 6, lines 12-14 by describing a project trackpoint database to store the trackpoints pertaining to a participating project;

"electronically searching for information on previous proposed projects stored in a database based on an inputted search request by a user" at Fig. 2, e232-236 and col. 6, lines 47-50 by searching the trackpoint database for trackpoints of a pertaining project by specifying a set of search criteria, and "evaluate the proposed new project using criteria including the search results for information on previously proposed projects to generate an evaluation document" at col. 6, lines 59-63 by describing a notification tool

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to notify project participants when a notification criteria met and at col. 6, lines 64 – col. 7, line 7 by reviewing the search result on the viewing panel where pre-selected data is displayed;

“receiving information on projected project timelines for tasks required to reach market introduction” at Fig. 2, element 236 and col. 7, lines 4-7 by presenting projected timeline information of the project on the briefing book to the user; and

“receiving information on task assignments to personnel and associated timelines for completing them” at col. 11, lines 59-64 by using trackpoints to organize participants of the project for exchanging information on assignments while keeping a history of project attribute values with time at col. 11, lines 7-11.

Page does not specifically teach project idea managing or “receiving idea information describing a proposed new project”.

However, Sandoval teaches project idea management at the Abstract and “receiving idea information describing a proposed new project” at Figs. 2a-2c and Page 4, [0070] where the idea for a project is submitted in worksheet.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine Sandoval's reference with Page's by including the project idea in the project trackpoints management because by doing so all phases of a project development, from an idea conceived to the product introduction to the market would have been best practices by a single software tool and a unique database.

Sandoval further teaches the following:

“evaluating the proposed new project based upon a comparison of the search results for information retrieved on previously proposed projects with newly proposed project” at Page 1, [0005], Page 5, [0076] and Page 6, [0099] by identifying best practice processes, comparing the processes in place prior with the new process of the best practice and ranking best practice project against other projects;

“receiving technical feasibility information into the computer” at Page 1, [0013], lines 9-12 by analyzing the project best practice idea to confirm the best practice is a best practice and assessing the feasibility of the best practice and at Page 2, [0016]-[0017], lines 6-12 by saving worksheet into computer and documenting the project best practice;

“processing the technical feasibility information to generate a technical feasibility document” at Page 1, [0013], lines 9-12 by analyzing the project best practice idea to confirm the best practice is a best practice and assessing the feasibility of the best practice and at Page 2, [0016], lines 6-12 by documenting the project best practice;

“processing at least a portion of the idea evaluation information, technical feasibility information, risk assessment information, and projected timelines for tasks required to reach market introduction information to generate a product proposal plan” at Figs. 6-7 and Page 7, [0135]-[139] by implementing and institutionalizing the best practice of the project;

“receiving information on the acceptance or non-acceptance of the product proposal plan” at Page 6, [0092] by deciding whether the recommendations be implemented or not;

“receiving business planning information, if the product proposal plan is accepted, into the computer” at Page 6, [0107]-[0109] by implementing the best practice of a project at phase 4 where sponsor’s agreement to provide the required support and resources is requested and the project steering team agrees with the practice and approves to proceed where the best practice project is maintained in computer database (See Page 2, [0017]);

“processing the business planning information to generate a business proposition and a capital allocation request” at Page 6, [0098]-[0101] by proposing the best practice of a project at phase 3 where the resource requirements and actions for best practice implementation plan is rolled out for approval;

“receiving information into the computer on the acceptance or non-acceptance of the business proposition and the capital allocation request” at Page 6, [0109]-[0113] where implementation plan proceeds from the stage of obtaining approval to approved to deploy, and again, the best practice project is maintained in computer database (See Page 2, [0017]);

“receiving product launch information, if the business proposition and capital allocation request are approved, into the computer” at Pages 6-7, [0113] and [0135] where an optional phase for conducting a pilot is implemented when all necessary steps in preparation for the best practice project implementation is completed and ready for institutionalize the project;

“processing the product launch information to generate a plant approval request and a resource release request” at Page 7, [0122]-[0131] where a pilot is conducted and all

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preparation work is completed for ready to deploy of the project with roles and responsibilities are detailed and briefed to persons involved; and “receiving information into the computer on the acceptance or non-acceptance of the plant approval request and the resource release request” at Pages 6-7, [0113] and [0135] where an optional phase for conducting a pilot is implemented when all necessary steps in preparation for the best practice project implementation is completed and ready for institutionalize the project.

The combined Sandoval-Page reference does not specifically teach “receiving risk assessment information into the computer” and “process the risk assessment information to generate a risk assessment document”, although the combined reference teaches processing feasibility information as previously described.

However, Chappel teaches “receiving risk assessment information into the computer” and “process the risk assessment information to generate a risk assessment document” by quantitatively assessing risk on a project associated with a change proposal and providing an objective risk assessment at Page 1, [0009].

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine Chappel's teaching with Sandoval and Page's references by conducting risk assessments through the progress of a project because by doing so the risk associating with changes of the project would have been timely assessed and proposal changes would have been promptly evaluated in order to guarantee a smooth execution of the project from phase to phase.

The above combined references of Chappel, Sandoval and Page does not specifically teach “routing the product proposal plan via the computer to a label and

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packaging development support subsystem; if the product proposal is accepted, for packaging label development” and “receiving product label information into the computer from the label and packaging development support subsystem”.

However, Underwood teaches “routing the product proposal plan via the computer to a label and packaging development support subsystem; if the product proposal is accepted, for packaging label development” at Fig. 116 and col. 272, lines 44-56 where label is created based on user entry or information association with a project; and “receiving product label information into the computer from the label and packaging development support subsystem” at Fig. 34 and col. 86, lines 44-51 where labels are stored in and retrieved from computer.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant’s invention was made to combine Underwood’s teaching on user activity framework in a commerce based environment with the references for project implementation system involving labeling and packaging because the combined reference would have enabled the institutionalization of project implementation plan from the phase of conceiving idea to production phase in a complete and self-sustained manner, including product labeling and packaging.

As per claim 30, Sandoval further teaches “evaluate step further comprises assigning at least one person responsible for conducting the comparison of the electronic search results for information retrieved on previously proposed projects with the newly proposed project, and receiving information into the computer indicating whether the proposed new project is accepted or not-accepted based on said comparison” at Page

4, [0108]-[0109] the project steering team is requested with the agreement on identifying the programs to implement the practice and conduct a pilot for the best practice.

As per claims and 31, Sandoval further teaches "the project idea managing software is operational to direct the processor to further perform, between the tasks of receiving the technical feasibility and risk assessment information, a task of receiving and processing consumer feedback information obtained via surveying potential customers on the concept of the proposed project" at Page 1, [0005] by surveying and benchmarking to identify the best practice processes among all existing processes or alternatives and at Page 3, [0033] by placing the project best practice on the web for being assessed, conducting periodic reviews and reconciling the differences between the business group deployment metrics.

As per claim 32, Sandoval further teaches "managing software is operational to direct the processor to further perform, between the tasks of receiving the technical feasibility and risk assessment information, a task of receiving and processing input forecast of potential volume of said new project" at Page 1, [0005] by surveying and benchmarking to identify the best practice processes among all existing processes or alternatives.

As per claim 33, Sandoval further teaches "business planning software is operational to direct the processor to further perform a task of receiving and processing consumer testing information on product prototypes associated with the new project" at Page 7,

[0123]-[0133] by conducting a pilot to test the best practice and using the feedback from the pilot, and making revisions to the project best practice.

As per claim 34, Sandoval further teaches "the project launching software is operational to direct the processor to further perform a task of receiving and processing customer authorization information for product market introduction" at Page 7, [0136]-[0137] when the pilot is completed and the project practice is institutionalized to become a way of doing business at the target company, including the product introduction to the market.

As per claim 36, Page further teaches "a database including memory storing identification, task assignment, scheduling and outcome information on previously proposed projects" at Fig. 2, where element 202 is the project trackpoint database and at col. 15, lines 9-13 where computer readable medium includes cdrom, disk or the like to store various project information, and "newly proposed projects, wherein said database is associated with a web server, and the browser-enabled stations being operable to communicate a request to the server to access said project information, and the server being operable, upon receipt of the request, to retrieve and pass the requested information to station to be displayed by the browser" at col. 7, lines 56-64 where internet access is provided with web-server and browser-enabled station for the briefing book page.

As per claim 38, Sandoval further teaches “comprising task control software operational to permit an administrator of the project to make additions, changes or deletions in the task assignments during implementation of a project on the system” at Page 3, [0032] by process owner team to administer, facilitate and track the development and implementation of the project best practices according to the best practice process.

As per claim 37, Sandoval further teaches “comprising task control software operational to permit an administrator of the project to make changes in timelines associated with task assignments during implementation of a project on the system” at Page 5, [0084] by making changes or modifications to the project worksheets.

As per claim 39, Page teaches “comprising task control software operational to permit an administrator of the project to select from among optional task assignments during the receiving of the information on task assignments” at col. 11, lines 59-64 by flexibly organizing project participants to exchange information and/or work collaborative on tasks or subtasks.

7. Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goerz, JR et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0065671, hereafter “Goerz”) in view of Gennaro et al. (U.S. Patent 5,742,768, hereafter “Gennaro”), as applied to claims 40 and 42 above, and further in view of Kidder et al. (U.S. Publication 2004/0031030, hereafter “Kidder”).

As per claim 41, the combined Gennaro-Goerz reference teaches a project development, including a "mouse-over" feature for automatically displaying text under pointer as previously described in claims 40 and 42 rejection.

The combined reference does not specifically teach "means to approve access and access levels of users to the computer".

However, Kidder teaches controlling the access of a given user to system resources based on the authenticating data supplied by the user when logging on by user authentication at Fig. 11c which requires users of application to login.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine Kidder's teaching with Gennaro and Goerz references by requiring participants of a project development team to login the system because by doing so the un-authorized access to the system would have been further prevented and security of the system would have been further enhanced.

8. Claim 43 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goerz, JR et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0065671, hereafter "Goerz") in view of Gennaro et al. (U.S. Patent 5,742,768, hereafter "Gennaro") as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Underwood (U.S. Patent 6,718,535).

As per claim 43, the combined Gennaro-Goerz reference teaches a project development, including a "mouse-over" feature for automatically displaying text under pointer as previously described in claim 1 rejection.

The combined Gennaro-Goerz reference does not specifically teach "a label and packaging development support subsystem permitted users to participate in a uniform label and packaging development process".

However, Underwood teaches "a label and packaging development support subsystem permitted users to participate in a uniform label and packaging development process" at Figs. 34 and 116, and col. 272, lines 44-56 and col. 86, lines 44-51 where label is created based on user entry or information association with a project and labels are stored in and retrieved from computer.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine Underwood's teaching on user activity framework in a commerce based environment with the references for project implementation system involving labeling and packaging because the combined reference would have enabled the institutionalization of project implementation plan from the phase of conceiving idea to production phase in a complete and self-sustained manner, including product labeling and packaging.

9. Claim 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Page et al. (U.S. Patent 6,212,549, hereafter "Page") in view of Sandoval et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0004766, hereafter "Sandoval"), Chappel et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0101089, hereafter "Chappel") and Gennaro et al. (U.S. Patent 5,742,768, hereafter "Gennaro") as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Underwood (U.S. Patent 6,718,535).

As per claim 44, the combined teaching of Page, Sandoval, Chappel and Gennaro teaches a project development system, including a "mouse-over" feature for automatically displaying text under pointer as previously described in claim 11 rejection.

The combined teachings of Page, Sandoval, Chappel and Gennaro references does not specifically teach "a label and packaging development support subsystem permitted users to participate in a uniform label and packaging development process".

However, Underwood teaches "a label and packaging development support subsystem permitted users to participate in a uniform label and packaging development process" at Figs. 34 and 116, and col. 272, lines 44-56 and col. 86, lines 44-51 where label is created based on user entry or information association with a project and labels are stored in and retrieved from computer.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine Underwood's teaching on user activity framework in a commerce based environment with the references for project implementation system involving labeling and packaging because the combined reference would have enabled the institutionalization of project implementation plan from the phase of conceiving idea to production phase in a complete and self-sustained manner, including product labeling and packaging.

10. The prior art made of record

- A. U.S. Patent 6,212,549
- B. U.S. Publication 2003/0004766
- C. U.S. Publication 2004/0031030
- D. U.S. Publication 2003/0101089

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G. U.S. Publication 2002/0065671

H. U.S. Patent 5,742,768

I. U.S. Patent 6,718,535

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U. Oracle® Project Resource Management, Implementation and
Administration Guide, Release 1.0, May, 2001

E. U.S. Patent 6,815,638

F. U.S. Publication 2002/0040469

Response to Arguments


11. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5, 7-34 and 36-45 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. As to the argument about the term "combined Page-Sandoval reference" used in the Examiner's Office Action, it was referred to "the combination of Page and Sandoval references which provides a teaching as most recently described in rejecting the claim or its parent claim under U.S.C. 35 103(a). The naming convention was taught to, and has been utilized by the Examiner and approved by at least five primary examiners since the Examiner's employment with the USPTO.

Conclusions

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kuen S Lu whose telephone number is 571-272-4114. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on 571-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Kuen S. Lu

Patent Examiner

December 9, 2004


Luke Wassum

Primary Examiner

December 9, 2004